



The
THE FAMILY LAW SECTION
respectfully submits the following position on:

*

SB 420

*

The Family Law Section is not the State Bar of Michigan itself, but rather a Section which members of the State Bar choose voluntarily to join, based on common professional interest.

The position expressed is that of the Family Law Section only and is not the position of the State Bar of Michigan. To date, the State Bar's does not have a position on this matter.

The total membership of the Family Law Section is 2,675.

The position was adopted after review and discussion by the Family Law Section's Council. The number of members in the decision-making body is 21. The number who voted in favor to this position was 15. The number who voted opposed to this position was 0.



Report on Public Policy Position

Name of Section:

Family Law Section

Contact Person:

Kent Weichmann

Email:

weichmann@earthlink.net

Bill Number:

SB 420 (Clark-Coleman) Family law; parenting time; provisions regarding grandparent visitation after stepparent adoption; limit to parent of a deceased parent. Amends sec. 7b of 1970 PA 91 (MCL 722.27b).

Date position was adopted:

May 7, 2005

Process used to take the ideological position:

Vote at Family Law Council meeting

Number of members in the decision-making body:

21

Number who voted in favor and opposed to the position:

15-0

FOR SECTIONS ONLY:

- ✓ This subject matter of this position is within the jurisdiction of the section.
- ✓ The position was adopted in accordance with the Section's bylaws.
- ✓ The requirements of SBM Bylaw Article VIII have been satisfied.

If the boxes above are checked, SBM will notify the Section when this notice is received, at which time the Section may advocate the position.

Position:

SB 420 introduced by a host of senators and referred to the Committee on Senior Citizens and Veteran's Affairs, would amend the grandparent visitation statute to correct a drafting error. The grandparent visitation statute passed last year inadvertently (or so everyone says) expanded grandparent visitation in step-parent adoption cases. Prior law allowed such visitation if the grandparents were the parents of a deceased parent. Last year's statute allowed all grandparents such standing. This bill would return the law to its prior state. The Council voted to support this bill.

The text (may be provided by hyperlink) of any legislation, court rule, or administrative regulation that is the subject of or referenced in this report:

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/mileg.asp?page=getObject&objName=2005-SB-0420>